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Preparedness and Planning

Chemical Illness Response Guidelines

The Michigan Department of Community Health in coordination with the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture has developed *Chemical Illness Response Guidelines*. The document provides local and state public health professionals with a set of guidelines for public health response to reports of illness clusters where the cause of the illness is a chemical exposure. The guidelines apply to chemical associated illnesses with acute onset from all exposure sources (e.g., contaminated food, toxins, water, consumer products, air) and routes of exposure -- ingestion, inhalation, and dermal. The document can be found online. For more information, contact Martha Stanbury by email at stanburym@michigan.gov.

Michigan Department of Community Health
Chemical Illness Response:
Guidelines for Public Health Investigations of
Acute Onset Illness Clusters of Chemical Etiology

Prepared by: Martha Stanbury, Jay Fiedler, and Susan Macrone
Division of Environmental Health, Bureau of Epidemiology
with assistance from a multi-agency workgroup:
Sally Hahel, Mary Grace Schuchardt, Brenda Dorman, Trish Sennel, Martha
Dorman, Paul Lucette, Jan Raskin, and Kevin Carmichael
Michigan Department of Community Health
John Tilden, Lisa Hainstock, Steve McGuire, and Mark Wondra
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Dale Avery and John Payer
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

For more information, contact:
Martha Stanbury, MPH
Section Manager
Division of Environmental Health
Michigan Department of Community Health
PO Box 30105
Lansing, MI 48909
(616) 515-4344
(fax) 515-435-0775
stanburym@michigan.gov

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HHS Purchases Additional Anthrax Vaccine for Stockpile

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a three-year \$448 million contract to purchase 18.75 million doses of BioThrax from Emergent Biodefense Operations of Lansing. BioThrax is the only Food and Drug Administration approved anthrax vaccine. The contract includes \$34 million for regulatory approval of four-year expiration dating for BioThrax. The drug now has a shelf life of only three years. The remainder of the contract involves up to \$11.5 million in milestone payments for development of a post-exposure indication for BioThrax and \$2.2 million for logistics services and other support. Emergent said it anticipates making deliveries for approximately six million doses of BioThrax under this contract by the end of the year.

Majority of U.S. Small Businesses Are Unprepared for Disasters

A national survey of small businesses conducted by the American Red Cross and FedEx has found that while 94 percent of small business owners believe there is a potential for a disaster to seriously disrupt their business within the next two years, only 43 percent felt prepared for a one-week disruption of their business. Only 22 percent felt prepared for a one-month disruption. Only 41 percent have taken preparedness steps based on the type of disasters common to the business location and only 55 percent have communicated with employees about their roles before and during a disaster. The Red Cross and FedEx are developing preparedness solutions to help small business owners develop an emergency plan and help their employees get prepared. A downloadable disaster preparedness checklist for small businesses will be made available online.

News

Suspected Measles Cases Rise

There has been one confirmed case of measles in an Ann Arbor area elementary school student. Local health officials are investigating six more cases of measles-like illness. Adults are asked to re-examine their own vaccination records, as well. Please see [page 5](#) for more information.

MI TESA Medical Unit Is Stunning Success

Michigan has purchased two interoperable mobile medical facilities from Western Shelter Systems that have the capability to join as a statewide 130-bed mobile facility, known as the Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MI TESA) Medical Unit. The MI TESA Medical Unit is designed to provide medical services primarily to patients who are exhibiting symptoms or conditions consistent with the type of care rendered at mobile medical facilities during Hurricane Katrina. See [page 5](#) for full details.

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October 26, 2007

States Cutting Disaster Red Tape

Laws aimed at breaking legal hurdles that prevented hundreds of doctors and nurses from volunteering to help Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005 are gaining momentum in states from Oregon to Pennsylvania. [The legislation](#) would allow doctors, nurses, pharmacists, coroners, emergency medical technicians and veterinarians who aren't licensed in states struck by disaster to get quick authorization to offer medical help.



FEMA Pilots Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

[Executive Order 13407](#) sets forth the policy of the United States to have an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system to alert and warn the American people in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public safety and well-being. The goal of IPAWS is to build a comprehensive national warning system that transmits voice, video, and text alerts to all media, including telephones, computers and cell phones. The pilot runs through December 2007.

NFPA to Publish New Handbook on the NFPA 1600 Standard

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed a [new handbook](#) on *Implementing NFPA 1600, National Preparedness Standard*. This document will be available from October 1 2007 and will cost \$70, or \$63 for NFPA members. Along with the full text of the updated 2007 NFPA 1600 Standard, the handbook includes a CD containing many practical documents, such as forms, worksheets, checklists, and surveys.

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to Participate in TOPOFF 4

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will conduct the largest and most comprehensive counter-terrorism exercise to date from October 15-19 in Arizona, Oregon, and Guam. DHS's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties will participate in the exercise, as well. Top Officials 4 (TOPOFF 4) is the fourth in a series of congressionally mandated exercises and involves various federal agencies as well as the governments of Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. TOPOFF 4 will involve more than 15,000 participants from all levels of government, international partners and the private sector in a full-scale, simulated response to radiological dispersal device attacks. The tabletop exercise is scheduled for December 2007. For more information on TOPOFF 4, visit the [Department of Homeland Security website](#).



Natural Hazards Center Announces New On-line Publication

The Natural Hazards Center is proud to announce the availability of [Research Digest](#), a quarterly online compilation of recent research related to hazards and disasters. It provides the references and abstracts for current research in the field. The aim of Research Digest is to advance and communicate knowledge on hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery within all-hazards, interdisciplinary framework. The first issue, which is available online, includes more than 125 articles cataloged between April and mid-August. Additional issues will follow in December and March.

IT Management Overconfident about Disaster Recovery

A new survey has found that while most corporate IT operations are under-prepared in terms of disaster recovery, they are overconfident about their ability to handle disaster. The report found that 27 percent of respondents' data centers in North America and Europe do not run a fail-over site to recover data in the event of a disaster. Another 23 percent said they do not test their disaster recovery plans. The [full article](#) is available online.

Input for Emergency Response and Preparedness Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is [asking stakeholders](#) for help determining what action the agency should take to further address emergency response and preparedness. Elements of the health and safety for emergency responders are currently regulated by OSHA, primarily under six standards. Some of these standards were promulgated decades ago and none were designed as a comprehensive emergency response standard. The current OSHA standards do not reflect all of the major improvements in safety and health practices that already have been accepted by the emergency response community and incorporated into industry consensus standards. OSHA is inviting the [public to submit comments](#).



Online Game to Train POD Staff

On September 28, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health announced the release of an [online game](#) to train Point of Dispensing (POD) staff. The game is free and an easy way to train staff in triage, forms management and dispensing, all within the safety of the game. The game transports you into the middle of a drug-dispensing center with all the distractions of a frightened and confused public. The player must remain calm and focused and get as many people through the center as possible. Workers can train in multiple roles and practice as often as they need.

School Emergency Management Planning Best Practices

The Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) group announced the publication of a new best practices series on school emergency management planning. These best practices provide an overview of core principles of emergency management planning for schools and are intended to bring school administrators and local emergency responders together in the school emergency management planning process. To access the new best practices, [log onto LLIS.gov](#) and click on School Emergency Management Planning under "Featured Topics". LLIS.gov is a members' only website.

Communications

Working with People with Disabilities: A Guide for Responders

This 26-minute training DVD produced in cooperation with the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities is designed to help personnel from emergency medical services, fire, police, and others work effectively and compassionately with persons with disabilities. The training is endorsed by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Maryland State Firemen's Association, and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, as well as other public agencies and non-governmental disabilities and advocacy groups. The DVD is available at no charge for training purposes. To obtain a free copy, contact Fire Director James M. Korn at jkorn@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Implications for De-biasing and Public Information Campaigns

This study researches the how the public persists in believing myths, even though we do our best as public health professionals to lay out the correct information. The study also goes into how we can change our public information campaigns to better debunk myths that persist in the public.

Family Safety Planning Guide by the American Red Cross

This guide, made available by the American Red Cross, working in partnership with Target®, includes activities for children and parents to help plan for a disaster. The documents covers topics such as determining a family meeting place, finding other adults who can help children during an emergency, making an escape plan, and a safety checklist.



Community Tool Box

The Community Tool Box is the world's largest resource for free information on essential skills for building healthy communities. It offers over 7,000 pages of practical guidance in creating change and improvement. The website contains information on a vast range of topics including promoting interest and participation in initiatives; leadership, management, and group facilitation; and social marketing and institutionalization of the initiative. Visit the Community Tool Box [online](#).

Public Health Information Rapid Exchange

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced a system to send important health information in real-time to subscribers, including alerts about any evidence of suspected pandemic influenza in the United States. The CDC Public Health Information Rapid Exchange will disseminate important and timely information concerning actual or potential public health emergencies. More information on [this initiative](#) can be found online.

Surveillance

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Saskatchewan

On September 17, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced that highly pathogenic H7N3 avian influenza has been detected in a commercial poultry operation in Saskatchewan. The virus detected in Saskatchewan was H7N3, which is not the same as the strain circulating in Asia, Africa, and Europe, which has been associated with human illness. Avian influenza viruses do not pose risks to food safety when poultry and poultry products are properly handled and cooked. In this case, the affected birds were not destined for immediate slaughter and were not producing eggs for human consumption.



New Biosensor Detects Avian Influenza Virus in Minutes

Quick identification of avian influenza infection in poultry is critical to controlling outbreaks, but current detection methods can require several days to produce results. A [new biosensor](#) developed at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) can detect avian influenza in just minutes. In addition to being a rapid test, the biosensor is economical, field-deployable, sensitive to different viral strains, and requires no labels or reagents.

Adults Advised to Check Measles Vaccine Records

On October 1, one case of measles (*Morbillivirus spp.*) was confirmed at Ann Arbor's Burns Park Elementary School. On October 3, two more students reported measles-like symptoms. As of October 11, there were seven suspected measles cases. Local health officials are asking adults to examine their immunization records. Prior to the 1980s or early 1990s, only one shot was recommended. However, since the early 1990s, two vaccination shots are now the norm. According to state health department officials, there is no indication that these cases are the result of some new strain that is resistant in some way to the vaccine. For more information on measles, please see the [National Center for Infectious Disease website](#).

Pandemic Planning

Bird Flu Virus Killed in Chlorinated Water

Scientists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Cincinnati found chlorinating water at a concentration of 0.52 milligrams to 1.08 milligrams of chlorine per liter lowered levels of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza virus by more than 1,000 times within 1 minute. The [complete article](#) can be viewed online.

Minimizing the Impact of a Pandemic

Most accounting firms have developed a disaster recovery response to effectively deal with a lost file, a crashed server, or other production equipment malfunctions. Some have even developed a plan to deal with the loss of the entire office due to a fire or other natural disaster. [Very few firms](#), however, have considered the possible impacts of a massive influenza (flu) outbreak that severely reduces the ability of firm personnel to work. While seasonal flu traditionally hits firms during the peak production times of the year, the viruses normally target those that are very young, very old, or highly susceptible to sickness, so tax and accounting firms are usually minimally impacted. A pandemic, however, would impact not only the tax and accounting firm employees, but also the very people that would use the services the most.

IOM Releases Pandemic PPE Report

On September 18, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies announced the publication of a report entitled, [Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Healthcare Workers](#). The IOM committee determined that there is an urgent need to address the lack of preparedness regarding effective PPE for use in an influenza pandemic. Three critical areas were identified that require expeditious research and policy action: understand influenza transmission, commit to worker safety and appropriate use of PPE, innovate and strengthen PPE design, testing, and certification.



Regional News

MI TESA Medical Unit Is Stunning Success

Michigan has purchased two interoperable mobile medical facilities from Western Shelter Systems that have the capability to join as a statewide 130-bed mobile facility, known as the Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge

Assistance (MI TESA) Medical Unit. The MI TESA Medical Unit is designed to provide medical services primarily to patients who are exhibiting symptoms or conditions consistent with the type of care rendered at mobile medical facilities during Hurricane Katrina. The MI TESA Medical Unit structure is comprised of vinyl tents with rigid aluminum frames, insulated roofs and windows and may be connected to other systems like those used by the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT). The MI TESA Medical Unit includes space for isolation with negative air pressure, hygiene centers, and administration and respite areas. The shelter is climate controlled and self-sufficient for power, and water services.

Region 2 South Medical Bio Defense Network will maintain a 100-bed mobile facility where a large majority of the state's population resides. The District 5 Medical Response Coalition supports a 25-40 bed mobile facility stored in rapidly deployable trailers. It is anticipated that teams of volunteers identified through the [Michigan Volunteer Registry](#) would augment MI TESA staffing.



Hospitals in Michigan have incorporated the ability to surge above the average daily census. However, during an incident, when a community's existing medical capabilities are overwhelmed, mobile medical facilities are an alternative to traditional healthcare. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the utility of such mobile medical facilities. The move to

purchase MI TESA came as part of efforts by the Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness, to improve the state's response to a disaster and prepare for the possibility of an influenza pandemic.

Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) was used to support this project.

Oakland County: Effort to Coordinate Emergency Response

When the nationwide call for help came from Hurricane Katrina victims, Oakland County's top fire chiefs say Michigan's response was hamstrung by poor planning and communications. That incident was one reason that Oakland County's fire departments created a new county-wide mutual-aid agreement, the forerunner of agreements that could someday cover most of Michigan. City and Township Councils must still ratify the agreements. Communities would pay \$1,000 to \$3,000 a year to belong. The agreement was driven in part by a need to manage sophisticated new gear, provided for county-wide use by federal grants after 9/11.

D1RMRC Concludes Summer Exercises

The District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition's (D1RMRC) exercise season began with the CHEMDOT-07 exercise on the campus of Michigan State University that tested the four EMS Mobile Medical CBRNE Support Units on a variety of tasks including multiple casualty incident (MCI) triage and patient tracking, pandemic influenza personal protective equipment (PPE), and simulated deployment of the included resources contained within each unit. There were also seven individual Alternate/Acute Care Center (ACC) activations as part of ACCEX-07 that focused on the physical setup of an ACC at

both primary and secondary sites. These identical exercises that occurred on different days and multiple sites utilized many of the D1RMRC mobile resources. This was an integral component to the DIREPLAY-3 functional exercise that tested the community surge plan drafted by public safety, emergency management, public health, healthcare partners, and local government agencies. This document will serve as a regional template for surge planning initiatives. In addition, ACC Incident Command was assembled and tasked with the operational and logistical needs of a community Alternate/ Acute Care Center. The D1RMRC concluded their summer exercise calendar with the HAZMAT-07 exercise that tested hospital decontamination procedures. This was the thirteenth exercise involving the D1RMRC.

Other News

U.S. Labs Mishandling Deadly Germs

American laboratories handling the world's deadliest germs and toxins have experienced more than 100 accidents and missing shipments since 2003, and the number is increasing as more labs do the work. The documented cases reflect poorly on procedures and oversight at high-security labs, some of which work with organisms and poisons that can cause illnesses with no cure. The mishaps include workers bitten or scratched by infected animals, skin cuts, needle sticks and more, according to a review by The Associated Press of confidential reports submitted to federal regulators. They describe accidents involving anthrax, bird flu virus, monkeypox and plague-causing bacteria at 44 labs in 24 states. More than two-dozen incidents were still under investigation. In



some cases, labs have failed to report accidents as required by law. The [Government Accountability Office](#) asked a dozen agencies whether they kept track of all the labs handling dangerous germs and toxins, or knew the number. All responded negatively.

NIMS Clarity

Recently questions have arisen resulting in some confusion among the community of State Emergency Managers concerning NIMS compliance, the NIMSCAST, eligibility for preparedness funding, and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) extensions versus extensions for reporting NIMS compliance. This [memorandum](#) intends to provide clarification to this issue.



Photo by Rita Simpson

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event	Location
Oct. 17, 2007 9am-4:45pm	Disasters Roundtable This workshop will consider what has been learned about disaster recovery from both scientific research and the experience of policy makers and practitioners. Historical and recent recovery actions following such events as the September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina will be discussed, along with examples of both pre and post-disaster recovery planning.	Washington, D.C.
Oct. 24, 2007 1-2:30pm	Collaboration: The Key to Public Health System Improvement The presentation will address how collaboration relates to the Ten Essential Public Health Services and why it is at the core of a major paradigm change in public health. It will also cover the essential elements to collaboration and the skills needed to be successful. The faculty will discuss current trends that public health is facing and how those are expanding the need for community-based collaborations and, finally, how collaboration is an essential element in improving public health performance.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Oct. 24, 2007 2-3pm	Emergency Responders and The Deaf and Hard Of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps To Disaster Preparedness The Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) and the Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDI) offer a unique course designed to provide deaf and hard of hearing individuals and emergency responders with the information and skills needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency situations involving people with hearing loss. For more information on this free program please visit their website , contact Ed Kronholm at (877) 820-0305, or email dlnets@aol.com .	Satellite Broadcast
Oct. 25-26, 2007	Is Your Health Center Prepared for an Emergency? Having a quality emergency preparedness plan is essential for maintaining services! This course will provide the knowledge, tools and resources needed to put a comprehensive plan together. See the informational flyer for more information.	Michigan State Univ. Henry Center 3535 Forest Road Lansing, MI 48910 (517) 353-4350
Oct. 29, 2007 Nov. 19, 2007 8:30am-4:30pm	Applied Incident Command for Public Health This highly interactive course designed to give public health professionals the opportunity to experience the Incident Command System (ICS) in an instructive setting. During the morning, participants will be led through a food-borne illness event from the vantage point of a public health responder. The afternoon will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss, in small groups, the process of an ICS-based response to a public health emergency. There is no fee for this course.	Saginaw Lansing

* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Oct. 29-31, 2007	End-to-End Preparedness for Pandemic Influenza In its second year, this conference has become a major gathering place where representatives from the nation's public health authorities, the biopharmaceutical industry, contract manufacturing organizations, distribution firms and the first responder community come together explore the opportunities for public-private collaboration.	Washington, DC
Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 7 Nov. 8 Nov. 14 Nov. 15	MDCH Immunization Conferences This conference will update health care professionals on immunization issues that affect people of all ages - from infants to the elderly and everyone in-between. Each of these one-day conferences will provide participants with a variety of practice-management tools, techniques, and information that will help assure that all of their patients are fully and appropriately immunized. More information, including registration details, is available online .	East Lansing Troy Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Detroit Ypsilanti
Nov. 16, 2007	Limited Healthcare Resources: Prioritizing Access in a Community Emergency, Cross-Border Perspectives The full-day program will examine, with audience participation, U.S. and Canadian perspectives on equitable allocation of scarce medical resources. What legal, medical, ethical and political factors come into play as prioritization models for limited distribution are designed and implemented? Registration details and materials will be available early fall 2007. Please contact the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy at (716) 645-2102 to register or for more information.	TBD
Dec. 6, 2007 1-2:30pm	Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Taking Care of Business This broadcast will focus on the development of these public-private partnerships. Panelists will discuss methods for locating and reaching-out to businesses and identify significant challenges, possible solutions, and opportunities involved in this type of community outreach. In addition, business leaders and public health professionals will share their experiences in forming these partnerships.	OPHP * Library (517) 355-8150
Dec. 13, 2007	Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases This course provides guidelines for vaccine-preventable disease surveillance, case investigation, and outbreak control. Registration will open closer to the course date.	Webcast
Feb. 28-29, 2008 Mar. 5-6, 2008	Basic Public Information Officers' Workshop This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management. More information forthcoming.	Gaylord Lansing

* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 19-22, 2008	Effective Managing Transit Emergencies This <u>course</u> will provide information on understanding the importance, purpose, development, and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system. Participants will learn how to better understand the emergency management concept and the role of the transit system in responding to emergency/disaster situations in both the community and transit system. Materials fee is \$55.	Grand Rapids, MI
Jun. 12, 2008	Behavioral Mental Health Conference Save the Date! More details to follow.	Lansing Center 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933 T: (517) 483-7400



Photo by JoAnn H. Gage



Photo by Nancy A. Kleist



Mailing Address:
 Office of Public Health Preparedness
 Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
 (517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



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